

Environment Committee  
Public Testimony  
March 4, 2016

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT of HOUSE BILL 5583

Good Morning Co-Chairs Senator Kennedy, Representative Albis; Vice Chairs Senator Moore, Representative Arconti; Ranking Members Senator Chapin, Representative Shaban; and esteemed members of the Committee,

My name is Francis Brancieri, and I am writing in support of House Bill 5583, **AN ACT CONCERNING AN AGREEMENT REGARDING ANNUAL WATER LEVEL DRAW DOWNS AT BASHAN LAKE IN THE TOWN OF EAST HADDAM.**

As a Bashan Lake homeowner since 1979, my wife and I want to thank the committee in advance in hopes that you will support House Bill 5583. It is imperative that the Town of East Haddam and the Bashan Lake Association have the ability to control water levels of Bashan Lake for several reasons, primarily, weed control, protection of walls and docks, and the shoreline. The biggest concern is weed control for the safety of swimmers. After last summer's dry lake, the coves and shoreline were heavily infested with Phragmites, Cattails, and just about every other weed imaginable. Phragmites is difficult to control because the roots grow deep, and, most times, several attempts are needed to eradicate the root system. Phragmites, Cattails, etc, have never been on our shoreline until this past dam repair. **My main concern is for the swimming safety of my children and grandchildren, as well as all children on the lake. Phragmites is a weed that grows ten to twelve feet high with thick stalks in two to three feet of water. These weeds will greatly reduce visibility for people on shore to spot swimmers and can cause entanglement, creating an unsafe condition for swimmers.**

I would like to thank Senator Kennedy and Representative Albis for touring Bashan Lake last summer with Representative Ziobron. Unfortunately, what you saw was a mud hole infested with Phragmites, Cattails, and other weeds. Bashan Lake is one of the cleanest, most pristine bodies of water in the State of Connecticut, and, as a homeowner, we would like the ability to keep it that way. By giving the Town of East Haddam and Bashan Lake Association the ability to control the water level, hopefully, we can bring our lake back to its original state, and all lake residents can continue our stewardship of our lake and the environment.

Thank you,  
Francis and Constance Brancieri  
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